This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

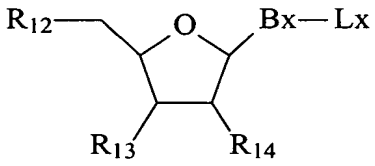
1- 22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) An oligomeric compound of the formula:

$$5'\text{-}(Nu_1\text{-}L_1)_n\text{-}Y\text{-}(L_2\text{-}Nu_2)_p\text{-}3'$$

wherein:

each Nu_1 and Nu_2, independently, has the formula:



wherein

Bx is a heterocyclic base moiety;

Lx is hydrogen, a protecting group or a substituent group;

one of R_{12}, R_{13} and R_{14} is hydroxyl, a protected hydroxyl, a covalent attachment to a solid support, a nucleoside, an oligonucleoside, a nucleotide, an oligonucleotide, a conjugate group or an optionally protected substituent group ;

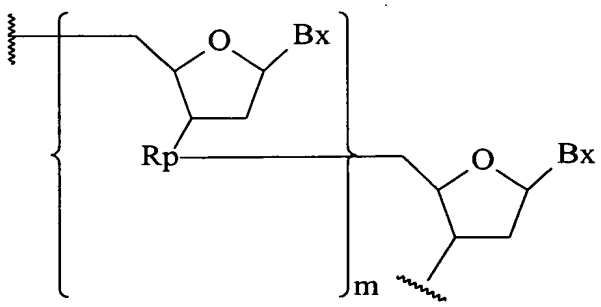
another of R_{12}, R_{13} and R_{14} is hydrogen, hydroxyl, a protected hydroxyl or an optionally protected substituent group;

the remaining of R_{12}, R_{13} and R_{14}, of Nu_1, is L_1;

the remaining of R_{12}, R_{13} and R_{14}, of Nu_2, is L_2;

each L_1 and each L_2 is, independently, a phosphodiester, phosphorodithioate; chiral Sp phosphorothioate; phosphoramidate; thiophosphoramidate; phosphonate; methylene phosphonate; phosphotriesters; thionoalkylphosphonate; thionoalkylphosphotriester; borano-phosphate; boranothiophosphate; thiodiester; thionocarbamate; siloxane; carbamate; sulfamate; morpholino sulfamide; sulfonamide; sulfide; sulfonate; N,N'-dimethylhydrazine; thioformacetal; formacetal; thioketal; ketal; amine (-NH-CH_2-CH_2-); hydroxylamine; hydroxylimine; hydrazinyl; amide (-CH_2-N(JJ)-C(O)-) and (-CH_2-C(O)-N(JJ)-); oxime (-CH_2-O-N=CH-); and alkylphosphorus (-$C(JJ)_2$-P(=O)(OJJ)-$C(JJ)_2$-$C(JJ)_2$-), wherein each JJ is, independently, hydrogen or C_1 to C_{10} alkyl wherein at least one of L_1 and L_2 is other than phosphodiester ~~internucleoside linkage or a modified internucleoside linkage~~;

Y has the formula:



wherein:

each Rp is a chiral Rp phosphorothioate internucleotide linkage; and

each n, m and p is, independently, from 1 to 100; where the sum of n, m and p is from 3 to about 200;

~~with the proviso that at least one of R_{12}, R_{13}, R_{14} and Lx is a substituent group or at least one of L_1 and L_2 is a modified internucleoside linkage;~~

wherein the oligomeric compound comprises from 5 to about 50 nucleosides.

24. (Original) The oligomeric compound of claim 23 wherein at least one Nu_1 or at least one Nu_2 comprises a substituent group.

25. (Original) The oligomeric compound of claim 24 wherein at least one Nu_1 and at least one Nu_2 independently comprise a substituent group.

26. (Original) The oligomeric compound of claim 23 wherein each Nu_1 and each Nu_2 independently comprises a substituent group.

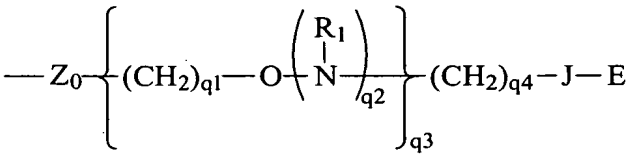
27. (Original) The oligomeric compound of claim 24 wherein said substituent group is covalently attached to the 2', 3' or 5'-position of said Nu_1 or Nu_2.

28. (Original) The oligomeric compound of claim 27 wherein said substituent group is covalently attached to the 2'-position of said Nu_1 or Nu_2.

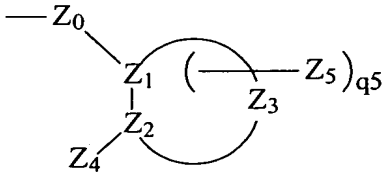
29. (Original) The oligomeric compound of claim 23 wherein each of said substituent groups is, independently, C_1-C_{20} alkyl, C_2-C_{20} alkenyl, C_2-C_{20} alkynyl, C_5-C_{20} aryl, O-alkyl, O-alkenyl, O-alkynyl, O-alkylamino, O-alkylalkoxy, O-alkylaminoalkyl, O-alkyl imidazole, thiol, S-alkyl, S-alkenyl, S-alkynyl, NH-alkyl, NH-alkenyl, NH-alkynyl, N-dialkyl, O-aryl, S-aryl, NH-aryl, O-aralkyl, S-aralkyl, NH-aralkyl, N-phthalimido, halogen keto, carboxyl, nitro, nitroso,

nitrile, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, imidazole, azido, hydrazino, hydroxylamino, isocyanato, sulfoxide, sulfone, sulfide, disulfide, silyl, heterocycle, carbocycle, polyamine, polyamide, polyalkylene glycol, and polyether;

or each substituent group has one of formula I or II:



I



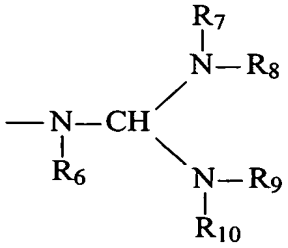
II

wherein:

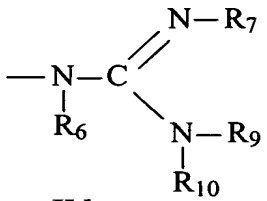
Z_0 is O, S or NH;

J is a single bond, O or C(=O);

E is C_1-C_{10} alkyl, $N(R_1)(R_2)$, $N(R_1)(R_5)$, $N{=}C(R_1)(R_2)$, $N{=}C(R_1)(R_5)$ or has one of formula III or IV;



III



IV

each R_6, R_7, R_8, R_9 and R_{10} is, independently, hydrogen, $C(O)R_{11}$, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{10} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, substituted or

unsubstituted C_2-C_{10} alkynyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, a chemical functional group or a conjugate group, wherein the substituent groups are selected from hydroxyl, amino, alkoxy, carboxy, benzyl, phenyl, nitro, thiol, thioalkoxy, halogen, alkyl, aryl, alkenyl and alkynyl;

or optionally, R_7 and R_8, together form a phthalimido moiety with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached;

or optionally, R_9 and R_{10}, together form a phthalimido moiety with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached;

each R_{11} is, independently, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{10} alkyl, trifluoromethyl, cyanoethyloxy, methoxy, ethoxy, t-butoxy, allyloxy, 9-fluorenylmethoxy, 2-(trimethylsilyl)-ethoxy, 2,2,2-trichloroethoxy, benzyloxy, butyryl, iso-butyryl, phenyl or aryl;

R_5 is T-L,

T is a bond or a linking moiety;

L is a chemical functional group, a conjugate group or a solid support material;

each R_1 and R_2 is, independently, H, a nitrogen protecting group, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{10} alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted C_2-C_{10} alkynyl, wherein said substitution is OR_3, SR_3, NH_3^+, $N(R_3)(R_4)$, guanidino or acyl where said acyl is an acid amide or an ester;

or R_1 and R_2, together, are a nitrogen protecting group or are joined in a ring structure that optionally includes an additional heteroatom selected from N and O;

or R_1, T and L, together, are a chemical functional group;

each R_3 and R_4 is, independently, H, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, a nitrogen protecting group, or R_3 and R_4, together, are a nitrogen protecting group;

or R_3 and R_4 are joined in a ring structure that optionally includes an additional heteroatom selected from N and O;

Z_4 is OX, SX, or $N(X)_2$;

each X is, independently, H, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_1-C_8 haloalkyl, $C(=NH)N(H)R_5$, $C(=O)N(H)R_5$ or $OC(=O)N(H)R_5$;

R_5 is H or C_1-C_8 alkyl;

Z_1, Z_2 and Z_3 comprise a ring system having from about 4 to about 7 carbon atoms or having from about 3 to about 6 carbon atoms and 1 or 2 hetero atoms wherein said hetero atoms are selected from oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur and wherein said ring system is aliphatic, unsaturated aliphatic, aromatic, or saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic;

Z_5 is alkyl or haloalkyl having 1 to about 10 carbon atoms, alkenyl having 2 to about 10 carbon atoms, alkynyl having 2 to about 10 carbon atoms, aryl having 6 to about 14 carbon atoms, $N(R_1)(R_2)$ OR_1, halo, SR_1 or CN;

each q_1 is, independently, an integer from 1 to 10;

each q_2 is, independently, 0 or 1;

q_3 is 0 or an integer from 1 to 10;

q_4 is an integer from 1 to 10;

q_5 is from 0, 1 or 2; and

provided that when q_3 is 0, q_4 is greater than 1.

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Original) The oligomeric compound of claim 30 wherein at least one of L_1 and at least one of L_2 is a modified internucleoside linkage.

32-33. (Cancelled).

34. (Original) The oligomeric compound of claim 30 wherein each modified internucleoside linkage is, independently, methyl phosphonate, boranophosphonate, phosphoramidate, 3'-methylenephosphonate or methylene(methylimino).

35. (Original) The oligomeric compound of claim 23 wherein at least one R_{14} is L_1 or L_2.

36. (Original) The oligomeric compound of claim 23 wherein at least one R_{14} is L_1 and at least one R_{14} is L_2.

37. (Cancelled).

38. (Original) The oligomeric compound of claim 23 comprising from 8 to about 30 nucleosides.

39. (Original) The oligomeric compound of claim 23 comprising from 15 to about 25 nucleosides.

40 - 44. (Cancelled).